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JUL 03 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed April 5, 2006 is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 165-177, 179-181 and 184 are cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution in a continuation, continuation-in-part, divisional, or other related application. Claim 178 is amended to incorporate the elements of the base- and any intervening claims (*i.e.*, claim 176). Support for this amendment can be found in the pending claims and specification. Claim 178 is the sole remaining claim in the above-identified application.


The Applicants' have amended claim 178 to incorporate all the limitations of claim 176 as suggested by the Examiner's determination that claim 178 is allowable if written in independent form. All other objections and rejections are moot in view of this amendment. However, the Applicants' do not intend this amendment, or the cancellation of the other pending claims, to be considered in any way an admission that the cancelled claims are not patentable. Rather, the Applicants' intend to accept the Examiner's offer to allow claim 178 as amended herein and pursue the cancelled claims in a later application.

Conclusion

Applicants' believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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